

## **MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING**

### **BROOKLYN CITY COUNCIL**

**March 26, 2012**

**7:00 p.m.**

Present: Colleen Gallagher  
Katie Gallagher  
Kevin Tanski  
Tom Murphy  
Tony DeMarco  
Kathy Pucci  
Ron Van Kirk

Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **DISPOSAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION** by Pucci, second by C.Gallagher to approve the minutes of February 27, 2012, with an amendment on pg. 3 (change statistics date from 2010 to 2011; and expand in pg. 4 upon the reference to the worker's comp grant.) **VOTE RESULTED:** *Approve as Amended:* Yes: C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher, Tanski, Murphy, DeMarco, Pucci, Van Kirk. No: None. **(APPROVED)**

#### **MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION:**

Mayor Balbier presented, on behalf of Council and residents, a Proclamation 'To honor and recognize Kevin Pucci for his achievement as Ohio's 2012 Policy Debate Champion.'

(President DeMarco, on behalf of the Council, offered condolences to the Cahlik family on the passing of former Police Sergeant Greg Cahlik. A moment of silence was observed in his honor.)

#### **PUBLIC SESSION:**

*Mary Lee Bowen* of 4783 Tiedeman Road, Brooklyn. Said a question was only partially answered at the last meeting about the lack of videos of Council meetings on the city's website, which are still not available. Why are minutes condensed since videos are not available. Mrs. Pucci had said they will be coming, some day. There were also questions about lack of calendar information. Asked if residents are being kept in the dark about activities. She can be contacted.

*Lou Changeri* of 8972 Trail Run Drive, Brooklyn. As a school crossing guard, reminded everyone that Brooklyn Schools are on spring break this week, and the Catholic schools next week, and asked for caution. Also it is National Autism Day next Tuesday, and asks everyone turn on a blue light for awareness.

*Jane Goodman* of 4034 Windcove Road, So. Euclid. Exec. Dir. of Cuyahoga River Community Planning Org. (aka Cuyahoga River RAP). Explained about and invited everyone to take part in a riparian planting on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Memorial Park.

*Tom Adamski* of 9625 Melody Lane, Brooklyn. At Finance Comm. there was mention of a committee for the exiting of American Greetings and streamlining of finances. Encourages directors to each come up a recommendation to present to committee. Believes timing of legislation on hoarding is important, and hope it will include money for these individuals to seek counseling and guidance through this.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS & BOARDS:**

Finance Committee (Chairman DeMarco): Recommended Council adopt Res. 2012-5 and Ord. 2012-19. Received an update on Recreation projects. Had discussion on rolling over of notes. Will form a committee to explore alternatives for the departure of American Greetings. (Stated prudent level of debt maximizes financial flexibility. Brooklyn has carried very low levels. Prudent management of cash management is as important as managing debt levels.)

Public Safety & Environmental (Chairman Murphy): Gasification plant, as originally proposed, appears to have lost all momentum. Concept of increased recycling is alive, and they are committed to it and will continue to go forward. Will keep everyone informed of any updates.

Recreation Board (Councilman Tanski): Reported that there was a meeting March 19<sup>th</sup>. Gave updates on soccer registration. An architect firm hired for weight room project, cash registers are on order. The Egg Hunt will be March 31<sup>st</sup> at 11 a.m., registration at 10:30. Youth baseball registration at Super Sign-Up May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 11-1 p.m. The next mtg. is Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the Mayor's Court.

Legislative Update/Domestic Violence/Juvenile Diversion (Councilwoman C. Gallagher): The next mtg. of the Domestic Abuse Commission will be March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Community Center.

Bd. of Zoning Appeals (Comm. Ockington): A mtg. was held March 15<sup>th</sup> for a request from Joseph Denk, representing Ohio Savings Operations Center for a 15 foot side yard set-back variance to install emergency generator at 7570 Northcliff. After discussion the matter was approved. The next mtg. is scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Mayor's Court, if applications are received

Economic Development (Chairman DeMarco): The next mtg. will be this Friday (March 30) at 3 p.m. in the conference room, and is open to the public. The buyer closed on the purchase of the old library building, with gross proceeds to the city of \$200,000 (less nominal fees).

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL:**

**Colleen Gallagher:** Congratulated Kevin Pucci on his accomplishment. Last week attended wake of Sgt. Cahlik and complimented him and all officers of the city.

**Katie Gallagher:** Expressed condolences to the Cahlik family. Saturday attended a seminar by the Ohio Municipal League for newly elected Councilmembers, which provided detailed information on many aspects of municipal government. Asked residents to call her if they have questions about her position on the votes of the notes Ordinances from the previous meeting, or any issue. Would like an Ordinance or process for letting residents, Council and employees know about the goals and information on the city by a "State of the City" be implemented.

**Kevin Tanski:** Expressed condolences to the Cahlik family. Followed up with the Mayor on setting up a Sustainability Advisory Committee on Energy Consumption, to review and prioritize opportunities to ensure savings that will benefit the city.

**Tom Murphy:** Expressed condolences to the Cahlik family, and the family of Dolores Catcher. Announced a Brooklyn Relay for Life fundraiser 5-9 p.m. on April 1<sup>st</sup> at Pepper's Italian Rest. (216-226-6191 for info.) Thanked Mrs. Goodman and said he will make an effort to assist the tree plantings in the park on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Replied to Mr. Adamski that the Council has discussed hoarding, along with the Police and Fire Chiefs, and asked for family and/or neighbor assistance in contacting the city.

**Kathy Pucci:** Expressed condolences to the Cahlik family. Suggested at the Finance Committee that a Financial Strategic Committee be established to examine how the city can operate more efficiently in all departments, and prepare financially for when American Greetings leaves the city, in order to address the gap that will occur in the level of revenue. Thanked Mrs. Goodman and encouraged residents to volunteer at the tree planting event; commended the Friends of Big Creek for their dedication and work; and also thanked Dir. Verba and staff for their assistance with the project. Thanked the Mayor for her son Kevin's

proclamation and recognizing his accomplishments. Addressed the availability of meetings on the website. Reiterated our current website is not capable of running them; and informed that the County (with whom there is a contract for a new website) is working on this, and we are hoping in June for it to be up and running. Was asked to read a statement written and authorized by the trustees of the Brooklyn Animal Shelter, which she read into the record. (letter read)

**Ron Van Kirk:** Congratulated Kevin Pucci on his success. Also attended the Ohio Municipal League training seminar, which proved to be very educational. Asked for reflection on the Easter holiday. Commented on the Animal Shelter, and a volunteer resident who spoke to him, who felt the resulted experience at the Animal Shelter left her unwilling to volunteer for anything again, citing conflict with volunteers and the ACO. Referred to an article in the Sun News and the past Council meeting relating to the topic of debt, which brought about much discussion, and acknowledged the many differences in opinions by Council. Reiterated Council has the best interest of Brooklyn at heart. Suggested everyone should research for their own good. Wished all a happy Easter.

**Tony DeMarco:** Offered condolences to the Dentkos family for their loss. There has been lengthy discussion and disagreement on how to handle the city's cash position and levels of debt. Said that, proceeding from the result of last meeting, in addition to the \$2.156M debt in General Fund, upcoming in 2013 and beyond there will be cuts in local government funds, county and state local government funds, elimination of inheritance tax and commercial activity tax, for another \$1M in lost revenue. Properties are being re-evaluated, which will drop taxes to the city also. We need to create financial flexibility to assist the city as it navigates through unprecedented times.

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

**Mayor Balbier:** Offered condolences to the Cahlik family. Had a ribbon cutting at Menchie's on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Attended School Board meeting to present proclamations to wrestlers Louis Roginsky and Casey Bishop; and also to the girls varsity basketball championship team. Dir. Migliorino and he visited Eaton on Clinton, and met the new plant manager, who indicated she wanted more employee involvement with the city, so he is looking into some projects for them to assist with. They also visited Key Bank with their senior vice president, went on a nice tour of the complex, and were informed 120 well paid employees will be transferring to Tiedeman from downtown. Informed of a problem with the grant for the Senior Center bathrooms. The job has been halted to address a more comprehensive project, with new toilets, walls, floors and accessories. The county is researching the grant for available funding, or for the city to cover the costs. The county sent a 'multiple sensitivity awareness' resolution that they are requesting to be adopted by Brooklyn, which will be presented at the next meeting. Has the county's 2011 financial report. Brooklyn named Tree City USA for 28<sup>th</sup> year in a row; on April 27<sup>th</sup> will have students plant trees. May 7<sup>th</sup> is National Drinking Water Week, and the Cleveland Water Dept. will have open houses. Dir. Verba gave him a report of savings of \$37,660 in overtime costs, and ordered 548 less tons of salt (\$24,338), for a total of \$61,998 as a result of the mild winter. A check has been received from the old library and is now owned privately, and a day care center starting up in time. As mentioned, had met with Mayors from Parma, Parma Hts., and Brook Park, and they spoke of sharing a mechanic for the fire equipment; and also discussed animal warden duties. They will be meeting again. The Solid Waste Management District is seeking a public input on waste handling, with information on their website.

#### **DIRECTORS' REPORTS:**

Fire Chief Zemek: The scheduled May 6<sup>th</sup> pancake breakfast at the Fire Station will be postponed to a later date.

Service Dir. Verba: Informed residents the compost program will begin the week of April 9<sup>th</sup>, and reminded to have grass clippings in a compostable bag or garbage can, not to exceed 50 pound limit. Also cited Codified Ordinance 951.03 that rubbish cannot be placed on the treelawn until dusk, or one hour before sunset the evening before collection day.

Police Chief Mielke: The Police Dept. has a limited number of free gun locks by the dispatch window, provided by Project Child Safe, at no cost to the city. Encouraged those with a gun at home to take one. Expressed condolences to the family of Greg Cahlik, and thanked those who attended the funeral or otherwise expressed sympathy.

**COUNCIL CONFIRMATION:**

A request from the Mayor for the re-appointment of John Bundy to the Parma Community General Hospital Association, for the term beginning June 1, 2012. **MOTION** by Murphy, second by Tanski to confirm the appointment. **VOTE RESULTED:** *Confirm:* Yes: C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher, Tanski, Murphy, DeMarco, Pucci, Van Kirk. No: None. **(CONFIRMED)**

**LEGISLATION:**

**RESOLUTION 2012-5:** Accepting Improvement Target Areas as designated by the County, and approving the project proposed to be funded and the application for assistance to be submitted under the Community Development Block Grant Program. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Van Kirk to suspend the rules. **VOTE RESULTED:** *Suspend the Rules:* Yes: C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher, Tanski, Murphy, DeMarco, Pucci, Van Kirk. No: None. *Adopt:* Yes: C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher, Tanski, Murphy, DeMarco, Pucci, Van Kirk. No: None. **(ADOPTED)**

**ORDINANCE 2012-9 (3<sup>RD</sup> Reading/Adoption):** Annual Appropriations. To make appropriations for current and other expenditures of the City of Brooklyn, State of Ohio, for the period January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Van Kirk to amend per new Exhibit A, as attached. **VOTE RESULTED:** *Amend:* Yes: C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher, Tanski, Murphy, DeMarco, Pucci, Van Kirk. No: None. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Tanski to suspend the rules as amended. **VOTE RESULTED:** *Suspend the Rules:* Yes: C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher, Tanski, Murphy, DeMarco, Pucci, Van Kirk. No: None. *Adopt:* C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher, Tanski, Murphy, DeMarco, Pucci, Van Kirk. No: None. **(ADOPTED, AS AMENDED)**

**ORDINANCE 2012-12 (3<sup>rd</sup> Reading/Adoption):** Authorizing the sale of certain city owned vehicles through the Greater Cleveland Auto Auction, public auctioneer, for the purpose of disposing of city vehicles and equipment at public sale. **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Van Kirk to adopt. **VOTE RESULTED:** *Adopt:* Yes: C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher, Tanski, Murphy, DeMarco, Pucci, Van Kirk. No: None. **(ADOPTED)**

**ORDINANCE 2012-19:** To amend Section 1 of Ordinance 2005-4, entitled, 'Establishing fees for teams registering to compete in the Adult Softball League through the Brooklyn Recreation Department.' **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Van Kirk to suspend the rules. **VOTE RESULTED:** *Suspend the Rules:* Yes: C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher, Tanski, Murphy, DeMarco, Pucci, Van Kirk. No: None. *Adopt:* C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher, Tanski, Murphy, DeMarco, Pucci, Van Kirk. No: None. **(ADOPTED)**

Councilwoman Pucci thanked Finance Dir. Esarey for all her work in the Budget process and meetings, and also to the directors who participated.

There being no further business, **MOTION** by Pucci, second by Tanski to adjourn. **VOTE RESULTED:** *Adjourn:* Yes: C.Gallagher, K.Gallagher, Tanski, Murphy, DeMarco, Pucci, Van Kirk. No: None. **(ADJOURNED)**

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Asst. Clerk of Council

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President of Council